



State of Indiana  
Office of the Attorney General  
News Release

Release: Immediate  
October 15, 2004

## **Attorney General Steve Carter expands web page to include a comparison price finder for the top 50 prescription drugs sold in Indiana**

Indianapolis – Indiana Attorney General Steve Carter announced today an expanded version of the Office's educational web page about pharmaceutical drugs. This website now includes a price comparison component for the top 50 prescription drugs sold in Indiana as reported by pharmacies.

"Prescription drug prices aren't often advertised or displayed so having the ability to comparison shop from the ease of a home computer should be helpful," Attorney General Steve Carter said. "A quick search gives a good snapshot of the range of prices among local pharmacies."

The price finder reflects the prices of the 50 most commonly sold prescription drugs as reported to the state by pharmacies. Using the price finder is as easy as choosing the drug you are interested in (limited to 50 and listed alphabetically) and choosing an area by zip code, municipality or county. The search engine lists the pharmacies in that area and the "usual and customary" price at which the drug sells at each pharmacy. The "usual and customary" price should be comparable to the price charged to a cash-paying customer without insurance and does not include discounts that a pharmacy may offer to seniors or for any other reason.

Pharmacies are required to report the "usual and customary" price each time a Medicaid prescription is processed. The prices on this website are a representation of pharmacies "usual and customary" prices for the prior two months. If a prescription has not been filled for a particular drug during the time period the information was collected, the following text will appear: *"No pharmacies found matching the criteria you entered"* in the results section.

Prescription drug prices may vary from day to day, so the price that you find at the pharmacy listed may not be exactly the same price that appears on this website.

"While prices may vary, it is important to take into account other factors before jumping from one pharmacy to another," Carter added. "Having a single pharmacy fill your prescriptions can be helpful to ensure that there is not a harmful interaction between medications. Customer service and the convenience of having one pharmacy fill your prescriptions should also be taken into account."

The Attorney General's Prescription Drug Price Finder web page is posted at [www.in.gov/attorneygeneral](http://www.in.gov/attorneygeneral). It also includes a one-stop resource linking consumers to federal and state prescription drug discount programs and services.

Drug discount cards and programs may offer substantial savings from listed prices. Many pharmacies will help you find a suitable discount program.

-30-

Reporters' contact: Staci Schneider 317.232.6351